



MEAP

Coordinator Update

Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability – Michigan Educational Assessment Program – Vol. 2, No. 4 – October 15, 2004

Sterling Heights OEAA Conference Full

The OEAA 2004 Fall Conference at Sterling Heights on Monday, October 18, is full. **Walk-ins will only be accepted based on no-shows and are not guaranteed entry to the conference.** Most materials will be available at a later date on the OEAA web site.

MEAP Coordinator Handbook Now Online

The MEAP Coordinator Handbook for 2004-2005 is now available on the MEAP web page at www.michigan.gov/meap under "Information for Educators." This Handbook is intended to provide district MEAP coordinators with detailed instructions for administering the MEAP assessments. The Handbook is available only online.

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Information Available Online

The OEAA recently bid a reluctant but fond farewell to Kim Young, Michigan NAEP Coordinator. Kim accepted the position as Director of General Education with the Ionia County Intermediate School District. Before she left, work was completed on the NAEP web page at www.michigan.gov/oeaa. This page contains an overview, related resources and links that will be helpful to Michigan educators.

In the interim, Jim Griffiths, MEAP Test Administration and Reporting Coordinator, will be working with the NAEP testing. You can contact Jim at NAEP@michigan.gov or (517) 241-2360.

Participation of Foreign Exchange Students in MEAP Assessments

The following will provide some clarification to schools with questions about foreign exchange students participating in the MEAP assessments.

It is the policy of the Michigan State Board of Education that ALL students are to participate in state assessment. Foreign exchange students are counted as enrolled for participation (the 95% tested requirement for AYP) if the district counts them in state school aid membership in a grade level where state assessments are administered (for example in grade 11).

It is possible that the school may classify a foreign exchange student as an English Language Learner (ELL). Please note that not all foreign exchange students are English Language Learners. This will entail administering an English language proficiency assessment. If they are determined to be English language

learners, and it is the first school year that the student is enrolled in school in this country, the student may be excused from the English language arts assessment and may have the English Language Proficiency assessment substituted for the English language arts assessment for participation.

U.S. Department of Education guidance requires that ELL students take the mathematics assessment. The mathematics score may be excluded from the proficiency calculation if it is the first school year that the student is enrolled in school in this country.

Participation in assessment is not currently measured for science or social studies. There is no measurement of whether foreign exchange students participate in these assessments.

Questions regarding the participation requirement of foreign exchange students should be directed to Paul Bielawski, Manager, Educational Accountability at BielawP@michigan.gov.

Review of State-Assessed Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCEs) Available Online

The Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability, in conjunction with the Office of School Improvement, is conducting a review of draft documents that show how MEAP plans to assess the GLCEs in mathematics and/or English language arts (ELA). This review can be accessed on the MEAP web page at www.michigan.gov/meap and click on ‘State-Assessed Grade Level Content Expectations Review’ under ‘What’s New?’ This review will provide an opportunity for Michigan educators and parents to provide feedback on which GLCEs are capable of being assessed at the state level, and which of these should receive the most emphasis in the assessment process.

Social Studies Task Force Recommendations

On October 12, 2004 the State Board of Education received the report from the Social Studies Task Force appointed to study student performance on the MEAP assessments and make recommendations. The full report including ten recommendations can be found on the MDE website at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/ITEM_A_104434_7.pdf.

The Task Force conducted public hearings and received feedback throughout the summer and fall from many teachers, administrators, and the public. The recommendations were: (a) include social studies in the MERIT awards, (b) establish new performance standards (cut scores), (c) complete the development of social studies grade level content expectations, (d) develop and implement a communications plan and a professional development plan to reach all teachers of social studies, (e) continue assessments that follow the State Board of Education policy on learning expectations including the inquiry and persuasive essay items, and (f) provide an annotated list of materials used to create assessments and create sample assessments for each grade.

The State Board accepted the report at their October meeting and plans to act upon the recommendations at its December meeting, after educators and the public have had an opportunity to review the report. Educators are encouraged to visit the web site, review the recommendations and submit comments for Board consideration. The Department of Education will analyze the report and comments, then provide additional information to the Board at its December meeting.

Will the Social Studies Test Designs Change?

The MEAP social studies assessments for the current academic year (2004-2005) will not change. Pending the final action of the State Board of Education on the Task Force recommendations in December, OEAA will begin to develop new test designs and write new items.

The State Board of Education is scheduled to receive a recommendation to assess elementary school social studies in fall of 6th grade and middle school social studies in fall of 9th grade. This would allow the social studies MEAP assessment to cover the entire 3-5 elementary curriculum framework on the 6th grade assessment (including the revolutionary war period that was previously taught after the winter 5th grade assessment). It would also allow coverage of the entire middle school curriculum framework on the 9th grade fall assessment. This assessment would address the civil war period that was previously taught after the winter MEAP assessments.

If the Board approves testing social studies in 6th and 9th grades, schools would have the flexibility to administer the tests at the same time as other MEAP assessments in their building. For example, a high school with grades 9 to 12 would administer this test at the same time as the high school retest and the junior high school with grades 6 to 9 would administer social studies at the same time as the assessments in grades 6, 7, and 8.

So, how and when will social studies assessments change? MEAP will develop and administer the winter 2005 tests using the current assessment designs. If the Board approves the administration of social studies in grades 6 and 9, we will begin field-testing items covering the revolutionary and civil war periods on the fall of 2005 assessments. If the Board approves grade level content expectations for social studies, the assessment designs will need revision during 2005 and the earliest impact on actual tests would be in fall of 2006. New performance standards (cut scores) would be required in both fall of 2005 and fall of 2006.

Winter 2005 Field-test Sample Selected

A random sample of schools has been identified for freestanding field-tests in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics that will be conducted during the regular winter testing window that begins in late January of 2005. The sample has been chosen to represent the diversity of the Michigan student population in terms of region, size of community and school, gender and ethnicity. Nearly 1,050 individual schools are needed to field-test items at grades 3 through 8 in preparation for the operational assessments next fall.

The purpose of the field-testing is to identify the items that will most effectively assess the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) for all students. We need the assistance of all schools selected to accomplish our goal of developing the highest quality assessments for use in fall of 2005, as well as for future tests.

We will be emailing district MEAP coordinators and superintendents to notify them of the schools selected within their districts. Anyone may review the list of selected districts and schools at www.michigan.gov/meap by clicking on the link labeled "List of Free Standing Field-Test Schools – Winter 2005".

Information regarding the Winter 2005 MEAP Video Conference

The Winter 2005 MEAP Video Conference will originate from Wayne County RESA on Thursday, January 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The video conference will be broadcast live to participating ISDs, RESAs, and other locations across the state. Provisions will be available for viewers to email or phone in questions to the studio during the broadcast.

There will be a simultaneous live web cast as well as opportunities for interested parties to view the web cast for several days following the video conference. Wayne County RESA will make VHS and DVD copies available for purchase following the broadcast. Watch the MEAP Coordinator Update for more information.

Michigan Merit Award Information

The Michigan Merit Award Office has a new toll-free number 888-4GRANTS (888-447-2687). Any questions regarding the Merit Award, student eligibility for the award, test centers for non-public school students, etc., need to be directed to the Merit Award Office.

MEAP Contact Information

OEAA web site: www.michigan.gov/oeaa

OEAA email address: oeaa@michigan.gov

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MEAP email address: meap@michigan.gov

MEAP web site: www.michigan.gov/meap

MEAP secure database: www.michigan.gov/meap-secure

MEAP Office local phone number: 517-373-8393

MEAP Office toll-free phone number: 877-560-8378

MEAP Office fax number: 517-335-1186